



IOWA
CONGRESSMAN
TOM LATHAM

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 9, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

0019

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Re: *The Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Released: Nov. 19, 2012)

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

As you know, the success of the National Broadband Plan is vital to consumers in rural America, particularly the Connect American Fund (CAF). While the FCC has set aside \$600 million to invest in new broadband deployment during 2012 and 2013, much of this capital remains on the sidelines, as rural consumers continue to wait for affordable access to broadband.

As the FCC has noted, more than 80 percent of Americans without broadband live in those rural areas served by price cap companies. That totals more than 18 million people. CAF Phase I was designed to bring rapid broadband expansion in these areas, and if CAF-I lags, so will broadband deployment. The slow pace seems unfair to these consumers, considering that the FCC financed state-of-the-art networks for thousands of other rural Americans a decade or more ago.

I am encouraged by the FCC's November 19th further notice (FNPRM), which lays out a goal for the FCC to refine CAF rules to help price cap carriers to bring service to eligible unserved households as quickly as possible. I strongly urge the FCC to proceed with a second round of CAF projects in 2013 that fully utilize the \$600 million set aside for this important work during 2012 and 2013.

Broadband is essential to the economic future of rural America, providing access to educational opportunities, online business applications, remote health care services and high-speed wireless service. It is critical to our rural constituents that the FCC quickly refine the rules so these funds can be rapidly invested in broadband infrastructure that will help attract more businesses and jobs to these areas. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Latham", with a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Latham
Member of Congress

FROM THE OFFICE OF:

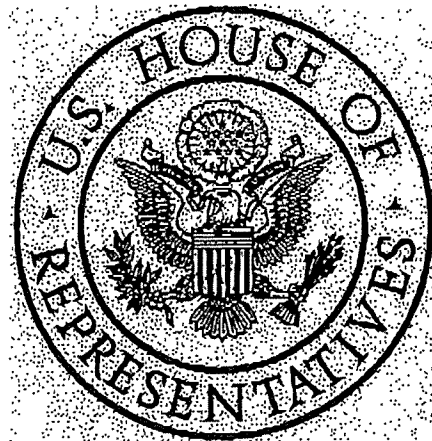
CONGRESSMAN

TOM LATHAM

REPRESENTING IOWA'S FOURTH DISTRICT

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2447 Rayburn H.O.B., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

To Attn: Chairman GenachowskiFax # 202-418-2806

With _____

Date 01/09/13Pages including cover 2

From:

Jacob C. Parker
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Comments:



**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Legislative Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Office of the Director

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Tom Latham
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latham:

Thank you for your letter commenting on the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in its Universal Service Connect America Fund (CAF) proceeding. The Commission is dedicated to distributing all CAF funds in the most effective manner to preserve and advance voice and broadband service, including accelerating the deployment of modern communications networks to consumers who lack access to robust broadband. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Guice", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Guice
Director
Office of Legislative Affairs